GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2832
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2007
PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES
Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pharmaceutical Companies have encouraged activities such as sponsoring holidays and entertainment expenses of doctors, offering of financial benefits and doling out of gifts in order to influence medical prescription as reported in Times of India dated February 5, 2007; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government to curb such activities?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS & MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE)

(a) & (b): Pharma Companies regulariy promote their prescription products to doctors. The promotion of prescription medicines to medical professionals is an important communication medium to make the medical professionals aware of new and better methods of preventing and treating illness. Doctors are sometimes sent abroad to attend international scientific conferences to get updated in their medical speciality which helps to better serve their patient needs, which is part of the continuous medical education programme. However, no specific instance has come to the notice of the Government regarding unethical and malpractices adopted by Pharma Companies to promote the products.